

Mid EAST.

Approved For Release 2005/05/20 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000400060003-5  
NEW YORK TIMES DATE 12 NOV 72 PAGE 3

## Egypt Is Reported to Get Advanced Soviet Missile

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11—The Soviet Union has recently shipped about 60 advanced surface-to-air missiles to Egypt and turned them over to Egyptian forces, according to United States military and diplomatic sources.

The Russians are also believed to have sent hundreds of technical advisers and training specialists over the last few weeks, both to show the Egyptians how to operate and maintain the new equipment and to assist them in maintaining Soviet-built jets and other weapons previously provided.

Before President Anwar el-Sadat's expulsion order last July, the Russians had from 15,000 to 20,000 military advisers, technicians and air defense combat personnel in Egypt. Western analysts said the total advisory force was believed to have shrunk to a low of from 200 to 300 men. Now they estimate there are between 500 and 1,000 Soviet military technical advisers in Egypt.

Military and diplomatic sources say the Egyptians appear to have reluctantly turned back to Moscow for help after encountering repeated frustration in seeking advanced weapons from Western nations.

For example, the sources say the Egyptians were unsuccessful in negotiations with Britain to purchase the Rapier low-altitude surface-to-air missile system.

They were also unsuccessful in getting France to agree to sell an advanced version of the Mirage fighter-bomber, which has not yet gone into full production. In fact, the sources

said, France warned that if Libya was seen to be turning over to Egypt any of the Mirage-5 fighters she already has received, Paris might cut off delivery of the remaining 55 Mirage-5's that are scheduled for shipment.

A number of analysts believe that the frustration Cairo has experienced in finding alternative sources of weapons and technicians in the West and the fact that, in desperation, it had to turn back to Moscow for help, probably is one of the factors contributing to the reported malaise in the Egyptian armed forces and to President Sadat's recent firing of the Defense Minister, Gen. Mohammed Sadek, and several of his subordinates.

General Sadek is believed to have played a central role in the expulsion of the Russians last summer.

The new missile reportedly sent to Egypt is the SA-6, the best low-altitude, mobile surface-to-air missile system in the Soviet arsenal.

Before the July expulsion order, the Russians themselves manned 10SA-6 tracked launch vehicles, with three missiles to each vehicle, around an air base they operated near the Aswan Dam.

Shortly after the order to leave, these SA-6's, which never had been in Egyptian hands, were crated, moved to the port of Alexandria, and finally re-

moved from Egypt by sea, the analysts say.

In recent weeks, they continue, at least one Russian vessel was seen moving in the Bosphorus from the Black Sea toward the Mediterranean.

On the deck were freshly painted SA-6 tracked vehicles and new missile crates of the size of the SA-6, these sources say.

Since that time, five batteries of SA-6 missiles have been spotted around Cairo, they say.

Each battery features four vehicles mounting a total of 12 missiles. Egyptian troops have been seen training on the equipment and are believed to be manning it, they added.

The solid-fuel SA-6 has a maximum altitude of 50,000 feet, but, more importantly, a minimum effective altitude of 100 feet. Israeli fighter-bombers, when they have attacked targets in Egypt in the past, have tended to come in below the effective operating altitudes of the SA-2 and SA-3 missiles, which the Egyptians have long operated.

mid east

Approved For Release 2005/05/20 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000400060003-5

NEW YORK TIMES

DATE 17 MAY 72

PAGE

5

## Israelis Report Two MIG's Over Sinai

TEL AVIV, May 16 (UPI)—  
Military spokesmen said that two Soviet-made MIG-23 jet interceptors violated airspace over the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula today on a reconnaissance mission for Egypt.

They said that the jets had flown 210 miles over the Israeli-held eastern bank of the Suez Canal and over the Gulf of Suez from Port Said in the north to Sharm el Sheikh at the southern end of the peninsula.

The spokesmen said that Israeli jets had been sent up to intercept the MIG's but did not disclose if contact had been made, nor did they say whether Russians or Egyptians had piloted the planes.

With a top speed of three times the speed of sound and a top altitude of 70,000 to 80,000 feet, the MIG-23's outperform any jets in Western service, including the United States Phantom F-4 fighter-bombers, which are being sold to Israel.

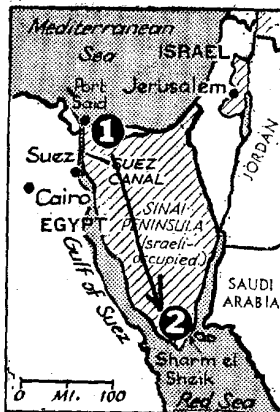
Israel filed a complaint with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem, terming the overflight a violation of the 21-month-old cease-fire with Egypt.

The military commentator of the Israeli radio said that the overflight had been clearly designed "to update the maps Egyptian intelligence already has of the Israeli military deployment in the area."

The reports of the overflight, the first publicly noted since March 10, coincided with the visit to Cairo of the Soviet Defense Minister, Marshal Andrei A. Grechko.

The Egyptian press reported that an aerial display was put on yesterday for President Anwar el-Sadat and Marshal Grechko and that it had included formations of "long-range fighter-bombers" and "modern planes" whose speeds exceed 1,875 miles per hour and that can fly at an altitude of more than 15 miles.

Western military observers



The New York Times/May 17, 1972

**Egyptian jets reportedly flew over Port Said (1) over eastern side of canal and over the Gulf of Suez to Sharm el Sheikh (2).**

said that the descriptions fit the MIG-23, the most modern Soviet jet warplane. They said it had been known for some time that MIG-23's were based in Egypt but that they were piloted by Russians. Arab news reports stressed that the planes in the aerial show had been piloted by Egyptians.

Military sources estimate that only 100 MIG-23's, have been produced. Two squadrons are believed stationed in Egypt. Recent newspaper reports said the Russians have permitted Egyptian pilots to fly the jets.

Development tonight approved a resolution, 70 to 0 with 37 abstentions, saying that Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories was a prerequisite for the reopening of the Suez Canal.

Israel did not participate in the voting. Her chief delegate, Gideon Rafael, later termed paragraphs in the resolution blaming Israel for continued closing of the canal as "controversial, one-sided, partial, inaccurate political references." He said that adoption of the resolution took the conference into spheres of activity that were not its concern.

Among the countries supporting the resolution were Britain, France and the Soviet Union.